

Minutes
Parks and Recreation Board
June 23, 1992

The regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on June 23, 1992 at 6:30 p.m. in the Parks and Recreation Department Board Room at 200 South Lamar Blvd. Board Members present: Beverly Griffith, Neil Iscoe, Eliza May, Albert Black, Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, James Crump and Louise Nivison. Staff present: Michael J. Heitz, Carolyn Nelson, Sarah Campbell, Jody Hamilton, Martha Bergman and Donna Bohls.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Beverly Griffith, Chair, at 6:40 p.m.

CITIZENS COMMUNICATIONS

The following citizens addressed the Board:

Lori Little - requested that the park in her neighborhood be officially named "Gracywoods" community park. The park is now referred to as no name park.

Claudia Siegel - requested that all issues related to the carousel concession be open for public discussion and not included on the consent agenda.

Diane Weidner - requested that citizen communications not be restricted, that the carousel concession project be canceled and that the design of the Possum Point Gazebo be reconsidered. Ms. Weidner indicated that the current design proposal was not compatible with the natural beauty of the area.

John Pomeroy - requested there be no "Merry-Go-Round" in Zilker Park.

Doug Johnston - requested that the carousel concession item be pulled from the consent agenda for discussion.

Carol Fox - requested there be no carousel concession in Zilker Park.

Alfred Stanley - requested that the carousel be included in Zilker Park.

Dorothy Richter - requested there be no carousel concession in Zilker Park and that no plans be made for a trout drop in Barton Creek.

Margaret Reed-Lade - requested there be no carousel concession in Zilker Park. She requested to see the construction drawings for the Zilker playscape and that no fishing signs be posted along Barton Creek.

Richard McCown - requested no carousel concession in Zilker Park and that park facilities be improved in neighborhood parks.

Debi Edwards - requested that the carousel concession be established in Zilker Park. Ms. Edwards is the Executive Director of Austin Children's Museums and is one of the respondents to the Carousel RFP.

Robert Simmons - requested that the carousel concession be established in Zilker Park. Mr. Simmons is a partner of Carousel Associates and is one of the respondents to the Carousel RFP.

Mike Sloan - requested extending hours of operation at Ramsey Park Pool.

ITEMS FOR ACTION

Consent Items

Approve Revised Appointments to Arts and Recreation Subcommittee: Erma Linda Cruz-Torres, Eleanor McKinney and Sterling Lands

Approve Appointment of Neil Iscoe to Joint Committee of Design Commission, Environmental Board and Parks and Recreation Board to review Carousel Proposals - pulled from consent agenda at Neil Iscoe's request.

Approve Construction of a Single-Slip Boat Dock with Deck Over at 801 River Road

Approve contract award for Emma Long Metropolitan Park Wastewater Treatment System Improvements

James Crump moved and Erma Linda Cruz-Torres seconded a motion to approve all the consent items except for the concession related item which was pulled for discussion. The motion passed 5-0-1. Reverend Lands did not vote.

Items pulled from Consent Agenda for Separate Consideration

Approve Appointment of Neil Iscoe to Joint Committee of Design Commission, Environmental Board and Parks and Recreation Board to review Carousel Proposals

James Crump moved and Neil Iscoe seconded a motion to appoint Eleanor McKinney to review committee for the carousel proposals. The motion passed 6-0 and was contingent upon Ms. McKinney accepting the appointment.

Items for Initial Consideration

Make Recommendation to Council Regarding Proposed Public Improvement District (PID) and District Management Organization (DMO)

Karen Richmond (Johnson & Gibbs) made a presentation to the Board. She explained the public improvement district movement and what kinds of improvements (litter control, security and graffiti removal) could be expected. Eliza May moved and Reverend Lands seconded a motion to table this item to committee. The motion passed 5-0.

Review the proposed Capital Improvement Program plan and make recommendation to the Planning Commission

James Crump moved and Albert Black seconded a motion to table this item to an ad hoc committee on Bonds. A final recommendation would be made after the upcoming Bond election. The motion passed 6-0.

Make Recommendation to Council Regarding Traffic Control Proposals for Barton Springs Road and Stratford Drive

Mike Heitz reported on a meeting between Bill Stockton, Director of Public Works; Allan Hughes, Public Works Engineer; and Neil Iscoe, Parks Board Vice-Chair to discuss alternatives. Alternatives included: 1) establishing a Park Zone along Barton Springs Road, 2) possibly reversing traffic flow along River Road, and 3) possibly instituting a right turn only from Stratford Drive onto Barton Springs Road. James Crump moved and Neil Iscoe seconded a motion to defer making a recommendation to Council until each alternative is studied further. The motion passed 6-0.

Approve 2.363 acre Sanitary Sewer Easement and 6.147 acre Temporary Construction Easement in Town Lake Park and Zilker Park for the South Austin Outfall Phase 2 Project

Jim Clarno, Public Works project manager, made a presentation to the Board explaining the route of the easement and the proposed compensation package. Mary Arnold, George Avery, George Cofer, Dennis Paddy and Connie Moore addressed the Board about their concerns with this project.

After considerable discussion, the following recommendation was moved by Neil Iscoe and seconded by James Crump:

WHEREAS, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code requires that parkland be used for easement purposes only if there are no reasonable or prudent alternatives to the use of that land and the following situation currently exists:

1) The Environmental Board has not given input on this issue. We recommend that they be included in this process and that they give a recommendation before any public hearing;

2) While we appreciate the good intentions of any mitigation offers by Water and Wastewater, the plans are not yet sufficiently detailed enough or broad enough in their scope to provide a basis for their evaluation; furthermore, no current easement policy currently exists although PARD pays almost 10% of its operating budget for utilities no mechanism other than mitigation currently exists. Wendy's was paid over \$17,000 for a 150 foot easement yet only \$25,000 has been offered to PARD for Phase 2.

3) It is not yet clear that the line is needed. It appears that the original tests and surcharge observations that lead to the conclusion that the line needs to be replaced are outdated and possibly incorrect. There appears to not yet be a need for the line; furthermore, the existence of such a line may lead to additional surcharge in the 42 inch line above the Springs.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that it is premature to schedule a public hearing at this time and that immediate efforts should be made to resolve the current situation.

The motion passed 6-0.

During additional discussion of this issue, the Board requested that an official sign off be added to the final plans for the Director of Parks and Recreation.

Approve 25 foot wide Sanitary Sewer Easement and 15 foot wide Parallel Temporary Construction Easement in Rosewood Park for Wastewater Service Improvements to East Austin

Neil Iscoe moved and Eliza May seconded a motion to table this item to the Land and Facilities Subcommittee. The motion passed 4-1.

Approve Resolution Regarding Container Deposit

Eliza May moved and Albert Black seconded the following motion:

WHEREAS, the City of Austin finds failure to uniformly reuse and recycle materials which results in the loss of valuable resources and finds that retrieval and disposal of discarded beverage containers including glass, metal, or plastic vessels impose unnecessary costs on Austin's taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Austin Parks and Recreation Board to alleviate the costly problems of solid waste management and of wasted energy, to provide economic incentive for reusing and recycling materials, to provide effective litter control and to preserve natural resources for future generations; and

WHEREAS, nine states have enacted container deposit laws and only one local jurisdiction, Columbia Missouri, has a container deposit ordinance; and

WHEREAS, deposit laws provide monetary incentive for returning beverage containers for recycling, employing a reverse distribution system originally created by the beverage industry to ensure return of the reusable bottles; and

WHEREAS, distributors and bottlers can collect a deposit of 5 cents from retailers on each container they sell and the retailer can collect the deposit from the consumer and reimburse them when upon the return of the container and the retailer collects the deposit from the distributor or bottler thus completing the cycle; and

WHEREAS, consumers who choose not to return their cans and bottles lose their nickels and dimes, which then become the property of the distributors and bottlers; and

WHEREAS, the overall recovery rate for beverage containers ranges from 75-93% and reduction in beverage container litter after implementation of container deposit laws in other states ranged from 42-86% and reduction in total litter volume ranged from 30-60% in these states;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Austin Parks and Recreation Board requests the City Council to establish a Container Deposit Ordinance to include the containers identified above.

The motion passed 6-0. All of the citizens who signed up to speak asked

that the record reflect that they did not speak but were in favor of the resolution.

Make Recommendation to Council Regarding Access at Sand Beach Reserve

Neil Iscoe moved and Eliza May seconded a motion to encourage the City Council to appeal the current State court ruling in the Sand Beach Reserve Access case. The motion passed 5-0.

MINUTES

The minutes of the June 8, 1992 meeting were approved as corrected.

A presentation on the Bike Trails and a status report were requested for the next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting stood adjourned.